

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00648 261331Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DOTE-00 FEAE-00

INT-05 OES-03 /104 W

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R 261211Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2155

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 0648

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, ETRD, EALR, TU, IR

SUBJECT: CONFUSION OVER TURKISH ROAD TRANSIT FEE

REF: ANKARA 0498

1. THE ADMITTEDLY CONFUSING PICTURE AS TO WHAT COUNTRY IS PAYING WHAT RATES FOR TIR TRANSIT ACROSS TURKEY CONTINUES. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY APPEARS TO BE ALMOST AS CONFUSED AS ANYONE ELSE. IT SEEMS HOWEVER THAT EACH AGREEMENT COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS OR SO TO PAY THE NOMINAL OLD AGREEMENT RATES UNTIL NEW AGREEMENTS CAN BE NEGOTIATED. COUNTRIES WITHOUT TRANSIT AGREEMENTS, IN PARTICULAR IRAN, WILL BE ABLE TO BENEFIT

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FROM THE LOWER OF THE SPECIFIED NEW RATES (25 KURUS PER

TON/KM) INTENDED FOR AGREEMENT COUNTRIES AFTER EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AGREEING TO BEGIN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW AGREEMENT. IN EFFECT THEN, THE 40 KURUS RATE AND OTHER HIGH FEES FOR NON-AGREEMENT COUNTRIES SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY REMOVED. LOCAL SOURCES EXPECT THAT NEW DECREE WILL BE ISSUED SOON CLARIFYING SITUATION ALONG ABOVE LINES.

2. AS INDICATION OF PRESSURE BEING PUT ON TURKEY OVER TIR TRANSIT FEE INCREASE, WEST GERMANY EMBASSY HAS INFORMED US THAT FRG IS CONSIDERING BARRING ALL TURKISH TRUCK TRAFFIC FROM GERMAN HIGHWAYS UNLESS AND UNTIL WEST GERMANY OBTAINS RELIEF FROM ONEROUS PROVISIONS OF NEW RATES.

3. RE PARA 4 OF REFTTEL, EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY AGENT OF AMERICAN EXPORT LINES THAT FIRM HAS OBTAINED RELIEF FROM HAVING TO PAY HIGHER TRANSIT FEES FOR CARGOES ALREADY ENROUTE. AGENT SAID HE WAS TOLD INFORMALLY BY MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS THAT DUE TO PRESSURE AND PROBLEMS OF ADMINISTRATION NEW SCHEDULE WILL NOT GO INTO FULL EFFECT UNTIL JUNE, 1976. THIS WILL PERMIT AMERICAN EXPORT LINES AND PRUDENTIAL TO CLEAR AND TRANSPORT AT PREVIOUS NOMINAL

RATES BACKLOG AND CARGO ON HIGH SEAS DESTINED FOR IRAN. AGENT PRESUMED THAT FOR NEW CARGO TRANSITING TURKEY, AMERICAN FORWARDERS WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE HIGHER TRANSIT RATES IN THEIR CONTACTS. MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRUCKS, SPECIFIC DUTIES, TRANSPORTATION TAXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA00648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760029-0445
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760123/aaaaatsl.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ANKARA 498
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONFUSION OVER TURKISH ROAD TRANSIT FEE
TAGS: ELTN, ETRD, EALR, TU, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006